

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alain GANTIER)

Appln. No. : 09/937,016)

I.A. Filed : January 22, 2001)

For : ARTICULATED TILTING TONGUE FOR)
 RIGIDIFYING AND/OR PROTECTING)
 THE FRONT OF A SHOE AND MORE)
 PARTICULARLY A SNOWBOARD)

Group Art Unit 3728

Examiner Not Yet Known

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the international PCT application (No. PCT/FR01/00199) upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicant describes below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

European Patent Publication No. 0 582 552 (LANGE INTERNATIONAL S.A.), published on February 9, 1994, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application, and as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 4 and 10 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. Claims 1-3 and 7 of EP '552 are cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 3,206,874 (ELLIS et al.), issued on September 21, 1965, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. Column 2, line 62, to column 3, line 40, and the claims of US '874 are cited as being pertinent.

French Patent Publication No. 2 361 837 (ETABLISSEMENTS JACQUES LANDRY), published on March 17, 1978, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 3-5, 11, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. Claim 1 of FR '837 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,971,423 (HANSEN et al.), issued on October 26, 1999, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, and 4 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application, and as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 5-13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. Column 8, lines 1-22; column 9, lines 6-18; and Figs. 1, 11, 12, and 14 of US '423 are cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 3,849,914 (BERTELE), issued on November 26, 1974, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. The entirety of US '914 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 1 023 848 (SCARPA CALZATURIFICIO SPA), published on August 2, 2000, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned international PCT application. The entirety of EP '848 is cited as being pertinent. In addition, the search report indicates that EP '848 is a category "P" document, viz., a document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed.

In addition to attaching a copy of the search report from the international PCT application, Applicant has attached a copy of the search report that was issued in connection with the French priority application upon which the instant application (No. 00 00847) is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached. Most of the documents cited in this latter search report are also cited in the PCT search report. However, the following two documents appear in the former, but not in the latter, search report and are brought to the Examiner's attention.

French Patent Publication No. 2 758 468 (FINS INTERNATIONAL S.A.), published on July 24, 1998, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1-6 of Applicant's aforementioned French priority application. Claim 10 of FR '468 is cited as being pertinent.

German Patent Publication No. 24 29 652 (BERCHTOLD LUDWIG), published on January 8, 1976, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art

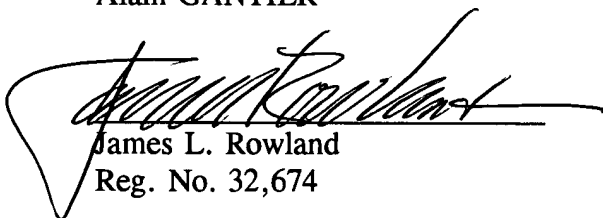
(i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicant's aforementioned French priority application. Claim 1 of DE '652 is cited as being pertinent.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is attached. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicant.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Alain GANTIER



James L. Rowland
Reg. No. 32,674

December 19, 2001
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191

703-716-1191 (telephone)
703-716-1180 (fax)